

APRIL 26, 2026

REDEEMER WEEKLY

REDEEMER CHURCH OF PIKETON, OHIO

JASON BOOTHE

“THE MARKS OF A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED CHURCH”



ACTS 2:42-47

In Acts chapter two, we are given a vivid portrait of the early church in its first days after Pentecost. This is not a man-made model for success, nor a list of techniques for numerical growth. It is a Spirit-inspired glimpse of what happens when the gospel takes hold of a people and the Holy Spirit begins to shape their life together.

The passage begins with a simple yet weighty statement: “They devoted themselves.” Their lives were marked by a steady, unwavering commitment to what mattered most. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, which was the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. This was not casual listening or occasional interest. It was a deep hunger for the Word of God, received as the very voice of the risen Lord speaking through His appointed messengers. As Scripture reminds us, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable... that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Alongside this devotion to the Word was a devotion to fellowship. This was more than social connection. It was true spiritual communion, rooted in a shared union with Christ. The believers were bound together not by preference or personality, but by the saving work of Jesus. As we read in 1 John 1:3, our fellowship is ultimately “with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ,” and from that vertical fellowship flows a deep and abiding love for one another.

They also devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and the prayers. In these ordinary yet sacred practices, the church remembered Christ’s sacrifice and expressed their dependence upon God. Around the Lord’s Table and in gathered prayer, their faith was strengthened and their love deepened. These were not empty rituals, but means of grace through which God nourished His people. As a result of this devotion, a profound sense of awe came upon every soul. The presence of God was not theoretical. It was real and unmistakable. The signs and wonders performed through the apostles served to confirm the truth of the gospel in those early days, as Hebrews 2:4 explains. Yet it is important to see that this awe did not produce their devotion. Rather, their devotion flowed from hearts already transformed by the gospel.

This transformation was also evident in their radical generosity. Acts tells us that they had all things in common and gave freely to meet one another’s needs. This was not compelled by law or external pressure. It was the natural outworking of hearts changed by grace. The love of Christ, who gave Himself for sinners, was now being reflected in the sacrificial giving of His people. As Paul later wrote, “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Their daily lives were marked by joy and sincerity. They gathered publicly in the temple and privately in their homes, sharing meals with glad and generous hearts. Their worship was not confined to a single setting. It overflowed into every aspect of life. They praised God continually, and their transformed lives bore witness to the surrounding community.

MARKS OF A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED CHURCH

(CONTINUED)

Finally, we are reminded of the true source of the church's growth: "And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." The increase did not come through human strategy or clever innovation. It was the work of the sovereign Lord, who continues to call sinners to Himself through the proclamation of the gospel. As Jesus declared, "All that the Father gives me will come to me" (John 6:37).

This passage calls us to examine our own life together as a church. Are we devoted to the Word of God? Are we cultivating genuine fellowship in Christ? Do we approach the Lord's Table and prayer with reverence and dependence? Are our lives marked by generosity, joy, and praise?

The early church was not without its struggles, yet in these opening verses we see the beauty of a people shaped by grace. May the Lord grant us the same devotion, the same awe, and the same dependence upon Him. And may we trust that He, in His perfect wisdom and power, will continue to build His church for the glory of Christ.

Art in the Annex

An evening of painting, creativity, and fellowship

Tuesday, May 26, 7 PM
Redeemer Church
768 State Route 220, Piketon, Ohio 45661

Ages 10 & up. All skill levels welcome.
Canvas, supplies & light refreshments provided.

The Church at Worship
Sunday April 26, 2025
11:30 AM



Announcements

Call to Worship

Pastoral Prayer.....Keith Boothe

#Hymn 6 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Psalm ReadingGreg Flannery

#Hymn 810 “Jesus Paid it All”

Sermon Jason Boothe

Hymn 686 “Give Me Jesus”

Closing Prayer Keith Boothe

BRING YOUR
Bible
WITH YOU
this Sunday

HOLY BIBLE

 **REDEEMER CHURCH**
— PIKETON, OHIO —

 **BIBLE STUDY** | 10:30 AM

 **WORSHIP & PREACHING SERVICE** | 11:30 AM

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-CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONAL-

A CHURCH THAT LOVES JESUS

ACTS 2:42-47

Have you ever wondered what the very first church was like?

The Bible gives us a picture in Acts 2:42–47. It shows us how the first Christians lived after they heard the good news about Jesus and believed. And what we see is something beautiful.

The Bible says, “They devoted themselves.” That means they stuck closely to what mattered most. They did not give up or lose interest. They loved what God had given them.

So what did they love?

First, they loved God’s Word. They listened carefully to the apostles as they taught about Jesus. They wanted to learn more and more. In the same way, we learn about Jesus when we read the Bible, listen in church, and pay attention during preaching. God speaks to us through His Word.

Second, they loved each other. The Bible calls this “fellowship.” They were not just a group of people in the same place. They were like a family. They cared for one another, helped one another, and spent time together. When someone had a need, others were ready to help.

Third, they remembered Jesus together. They shared meals, and they took the Lord’s Supper to remember that Jesus gave His body and blood to save sinners. They also prayed together. Prayer means talking to God, and they knew they needed Him for everything.

Because of all this, something amazing happened. The people were filled with awe. That means they had a deep sense of wonder. They knew God had forgiven them in Christ. They stopped looking to their good deeds as righteousness, looking only to Christ for all salvation.

They were also very generous. If someone needed help, others were willing to share what they had. They did not hold tightly to their things. Instead, they trusted God and cared for one another.

And do you know what else? They were joyful. The Bible says they had “glad and generous hearts.” They enjoyed being together. They praised God. Their lives showed that knowing Jesus is a wonderful thing.

But here is the most important part. The Bible says, “The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” That means God was the one bringing new people into the church. He was saving them and making them part of His family.

So what does this mean for you?

You can love God’s Word by listening carefully and learning about Jesus. You can love others by being kind, helpful, and forgiving. You can pray and thank God for all He has done. You can share what you have with those in need.

Most of all, remember this: the church is not just a building. It is God’s people. And when God saves us, we begin to love what He loves. Let’s ask God to help us be like that first church, a people who love His Word, love one another, and trust Him for all righteousness.

A Simple Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the church. Help me to love Your Word, love others, and trust You. Fill my heart with joy and help me follow Jesus. Amen.

THE MARKS OF A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED CHURCH

ACTS 2:42-47

1. DEVOTED TO GOD'S WORD



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

2. DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP



They devoted themselves to the fellowship.

3. DEVOTED TO THE LORD'S SUPPER AND PRAYER



They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

“They devoted themselves to what mattered most, and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

ACTS 2:42-47

4. LIVED WITH GENEROUS HEARTS



They had all things in common and gave to anyone who had need.

5. LIVED WITH GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS



They attended the temple together and broke bread in their homes. They praised God and had favor with all the people.

6. THE LORD WHO ADDS DAILY



And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. SHARE JESUS.

Let's follow the example of the first church!

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

BLESSING BOX FOOD BANK

HELP OUR COMMUNITY!



DONATE CANNED GOODS!

-  Canned Fruits & Vegetables
-  Soups & Stews
-  Pasta & Rice (optional boxed item listed for completeness)
-  Canned Meats & Fish
-  Canned Soups
- Canned Meats
-  Canned Beans
-  Canned Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce.

ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATED!
SPREAD KINDNESS & HELP FEED FAMILIES IN NEED.



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